CLAIMS:

1. A dough handling apparatus comprising a dough cutting apparatus including a plurality of dough cutting members, each dough cutting member being adapted to be brought into contact with a strip of dough for cutting a desired shape out of the strip of dough, each dough cutting member being spaced apart from an adjacent cutting member in the transverse plane across the dough cutting apparatus by a predetermined distance so that when each cutting member cuts a dough cut-out from the strip of dough, a relatively narrow web of waste dough is produced in the region between adjacent dough cutting members, the width of each waste dough web corresponding to the predetermined distance by which adjacent cutting members are spaced from each other.

2. A dough handling apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the dough cutting members are arranged linearly transversely across the dough cutting apparatus so that, in use, a single stroke of the cutting apparatus produces a line of dough cut-outs from the strip of dough with a waste dough web separating adjacent dough cut-outs in the transverse plane.

3. A dough handling apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, in which each cutting member is adapted to make sequential cutting strokes in a travelling longitudinal strip of dough passing beneath the cutting apparatus on a moving conveyor, the cutting strokes being timed and spaced so that the distance between adjacent dough cut-outs in the longitudinal plane which is perpendicular to the transverse plane of the apparatus is zero and the dough cut-outs produced by a given cutting member are arranged in a column parallel to the direction of travel with a longitudinally extending web of waste dough being produced between adjacent columns.

4. A dough handling apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein each dough cutting member is fixedly mounted on a stamping apparatus so that in use, on a downward stroke of the stamping apparatus, the dough cutting member is brought into contact with the strip of dough, thereby cutting the desired shape in the dough.

5. A dough handling apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the cutting profile of each dough cutting member is generally oval so that each dough cut-out produced from the dough strip is generally oval in shape.

6. A dough handling apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the dough cutting apparatus comprises a pre-determined number of dough cutting members so that with a single downward stroke of the dough cutting apparatus, the corresponding number of dough cut-outs are produced.

7. A dough handling apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein in use, the dough cutting members are brought into contact with the strip of dough which is moving on a conveyor belt underneath the cutting apparatus.

8. A dough handling apparatus as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the dough handling apparatus further comprises a waste dough web removing apparatus for separating the waste dough web from the dough cut-outs, the web removing apparatus including at least one finger for urging the waste dough web upwardly for removal from the dough cut-outs while enabling the dough cut-outs to remain *in situ*.

9. A dough handling apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the at least one finger comprises a sprocket wheel having a plurality of teeth arranged around the rim of said sprocket wheel.

10. A dough handling apparatus as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the at least one finger also includes at least one roller rotatably connected to the sprocket wheel.

11. A dough handling apparatus as claimed in Claim 8, wherein the web removing apparatus includes a plurality of said fingers arranged at pre-determined separations along the length of a rotatable shaft whereby in use, the dough cut-outs produced by the cutting apparatus pass between adjacent fingers while the waste dough web is urged upwardly.

12. A dough handling apparatus as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the waste dough web is urged upwardly by a rotating conveyor.